



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

Committee Members

Sunny M. Simon, Chair | Dist. 11

Robert E. Schleper, Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 6

Michael J. Houser, Sr. | Dist. 10

Pernel Jones, Jr. | Dist. 8

Dale Miller | Dist. 2

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 — 3:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Simon called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Simon asked Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Simon, Schleper, Houser, Jones and Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0296: A Resolution authorizing an amendment to a Master Contract with various providers for a summer youth employment program for low-income, TANF-eligible youth, ages 14-24, for the period 11/1/2024 – 10/31/2026 to extend the time period to 10/31/2027, to amend the budget terms, and for additional funds in the total amount not-to-exceed \$6,778,404.00, effective 11/1/2026; authorizing the County Executive to execute the amendment and all other documents consistent with and this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

- 1) Contract No. 5829 (fka Contract No. 4786) with Youth Opportunities Unlimited in the amount not to-exceed \$6,078,404.00.
- 2) Contract No. 4787 with Verge, Inc. in the amount not-to-exceed of \$700,000.00.

Mr. Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts and Performance; Mr. Shaun Woods, President of Verge, Inc.; and Mr. Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator of the Department of Jobs and Family Services, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0296. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Messrs. Cortes, Woods and Bounds pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2026-0296 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. PRESENTATION

a) The State of Head Start in Cuyahoga County

Dr. Thea Wilson, Vice President of Children and Families for Step Forward, addressed the Committee regarding the impact of rule changes on staffing, licensing, enrollment, insurance, health requirements and funding relating to the Head Start program. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Dr. Wilson pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

Ms. Simon presented Dr. Wilson with a proclamation from Council thanking her for her service in the education field.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Simon adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m., without objection.